

<b>Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital Procedure</b>	
<b>Informed Consent</b>	
Revised: X	Date: 04/07/14

## OBTAINING INFORMED CONSENT

Informed consent will be obtained at these times:

- When a new trial of a psychiatric medication is initiated
- When blood is drawn to test for HIV
- When a substance abuse assessment is done

The informed consent process includes a description of the condition being treated and an explanation of the proposed treatment. The informed consent process also includes discussion about:

- the potential benefits, risks, and side effects of the proposed care, treatment, and services.
- the likelihood of the patient achieving his or her goals
- reasonable alternatives to the proposed care, treatment and services. The discussion encompasses risks, benefits, and side effects related to the alternatives and the risks related to not receiving the proposed care, treatment, and services
- the right to freely consent to or refuse the treatment without coercion, retaliation or punishment

In cases where a patient refuses a recommended treatment, alternative, clinically appropriate treatment acceptable to the patient, including no treatment, shall be explored and offered where possible.

## DOCUMENTATION OF INFORMED CONSENT

Informed consent for a new course of treatment involving a different psychiatric medication shall be obtained by a physician in conversation with the patient and documented in a progress note.

Informed consent for blood testing for HIV shall be documented on the form provided for this purpose.

Informed consent to participate in a substance abuse assessment shall be obtained by a clinician authorized to complete the assessment. The patient who agrees to participate in the assessment will indicate agreement by signing the consent form, which becomes part of the medical record.

## GUARDIANSHIP

If a guardian has been appointed for the patient, the guardian shall be notified about changes in the patient's condition and treatment.

Vermont law does not permit a guardian to consent to the administration of non-emergency involuntary psychiatric medications. Such medications may only be administered by order of the Vermont Superior Court Family Division pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7624 et seq.

<b>Approved by VPCH Policy Committee</b>	<b>Approval Date: April 7, 2014</b>
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